(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is being collected.

(e) The offer consisted of the supply of General Dynamics' latest complete cryogenic engine and stage Centaur, for use in GSLV, without any technology transfer. Since the offer did not involve technology transfer and fell short of ISRO's requirements, negotiations with General Dynamics were terminated in March, 1990.

Indians in Afghanistan

4690. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of people of Indian origin settled in Afghanistan;

(b) what is the number of families that have migrated from Afghanistan in the wake of changing political situation in the country;

(c) whether the refugees from Afghanistan are being settled and what is the nature of assistance being provided by the Government for their resettlement in the country; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Government for the safety of lives and property of the people of Indian origin still in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Out of around forty thousand Afghan nationals of Indians origin settled in various parts of Afghanistan, twenty thousand persons are estimated to have left Afghanistan due to unsettled conditions.

(c) Government are in touch with some representatives of these Afghan nationals and will render all assistance considered necessary when required.

(d) Protection of the lives and property of Afghan nationals of Indian origin is the responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan with whom the matter has been discussed on several occasions.

Prime Minister's visit to RIO

4691. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:
SHRI T. N. CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Heads of Governments with whom Prime Minister had discussions on international and bilateral matters during his visit to RIO summit; and

(b) the broad details of the discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) At Rio, PM met the President of Brazil, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Indonesia, Mozambique and Mexico; the Prime Ministers of China, Nepal and Pakistan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. Bilateral issues as well as important issues including environment and development were discussed at these meetings.

Filling up of posts of Ambassadors

4692. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure of fillling the post of the Ambassadors; and

(b) whether in anticipation of vanacncy to occur process of filling the vacancy is undertaken early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The appointments of Ambassadors